

MICHIGAN LEGWORK

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

JULY/AUGUST 2007

Director Cooley Addresses Record Number of MCTI Graduates

ON JULY 7, DIRECTOR KEITH COOLEY addressed 133 students at the Michigan Career and Technical Institute's summer graduation ceremony.

The record number of graduates heard words of inspiration and motivation. "I need to figure out how to get people trained and into jobs that have a future...the graduates of MCTI are an important part of my solution," emphasized Cooley.

The Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI) is a state-operated, residential, career training center located on the shores of Pine Lake in southwest Michigan. MCTI has more than 300 graduates for the 2006–2007 school year.

Director Cooley spoke to the graduates about the steps DLEG is taking to solve Michigan's crisis, encouraging them to increase their skills and educational attainment.

"In order for our workers to be among the best in the world, we must build a culture in Michigan that values knowledge and drives decisions by both workers and companies to invest in that knowledge," Director Cooley said.

MCTI has 12 vocational training areas: Automotive Technology, Cabinetmaking/Millwork, Culinary Arts, Custodial, Electronics Servicing, Grounds Maintenance, Office Automation, Machine Technology, Certified Nursing Assistant, Graphic Communications and Retail Marketing.

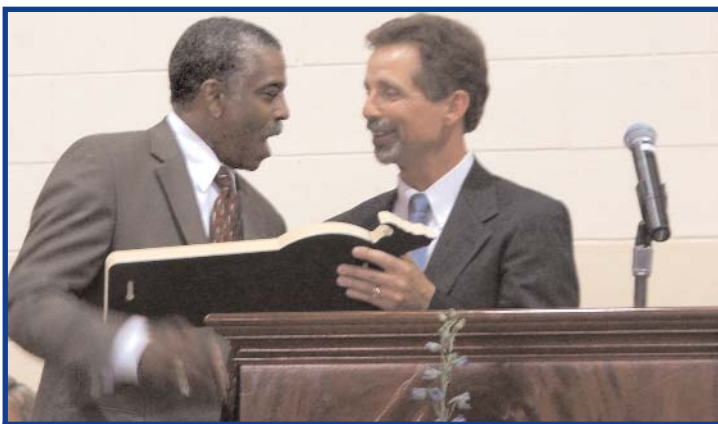
"We must encourage everyone in Michigan to embrace life long learning. You are going to learn something new everyday for the rest of your lives, so be aggressive and organized about it," said Cooley.



DLEG Director Keith Cooley, MRS Director Jaye Shamsiddeen, and MCTI Director Dennis Hart at the Speaker's Reception prior to the graduation ceremony.

MCTI also offers pre-vocational support in reading and math, high school completion, health services support, placement services and a barrier-free campus. The dormitory can accommodate 350 students and there is housing for students with families and a daycare center.

MCTI is under the auspices of the Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS). The mission of MRS is to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve employment and self-sufficiency. The 36 MRS offices around the state referred more than 800 students to MCTI last year.



Director Cooley accepts a plaque made in the MCTI Cabinetmaking Department.

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"Lights, Camera... Action!"



Director Cooley gets behind the controls of an excavator at the Operating Engineers Education Center in Howell.

Well... it may not have been quite like that, but this month has certainly been action-packed, culminating in an appearance on the department's cable program, "The Job Show," which will air on cable television systems throughout the state in August.

The 12-minute segment will focus on the state's prevailing wage law and also features Pat Devlin, CEO, Michigan State Building Trades Council. I talked about what prevailing wage is and how it's determined, as well as some of the steps the department has taken to reinvigorate the program. Pat explained the advantages Michigan derives from having a prevailing wage and how it helps to ensure quality work on state-funded construction projects.

Our Wage & Hour Division administers Michigan's Prevailing Wage law, which requires workers receive prevailing wage and benefit rates on state-funded construction projects, such as highways and educational facilities for public schools, community colleges and public universities. The division establishes the prevailing wage and benefit rates based on data contained in collective bargaining agreements from around the state.

Earlier in the month, I had the pleasure of speaking to the 133 graduates at the Michigan Career and Technical Institute's summer ceremony. What an uplifting event that was, to see this record number of newly skilled individuals, trained and ready to go out and join the workforce. The full story is on page 1.

There are plenty of opportunities for workers, and I learned about some when I visited the Operating Engineers Local 324 Education Center in Howell. The operating engineers invited Deputy Director Andy Levin and me to tour the facility and learn about their apprenticeship program. At this cutting-edge facility, heavy equipment operators in the building and construction industries get trained on the latest equipment so that they can advance in their fields. They even allowed Andy and me to get behind the controls of some of the machinery (under **close** supervision!) and it gave me a whole new respect for the men and women who operate them.

I was also pleased to present Aleris International's Saginaw facility with the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) Michigan Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) Award for an exemplary safety and health management system. The third Aleris facility in Michigan and only the 10th company in the state to receive this prestigious award, this company is truly committed to workplace safety and the health of every employee. Their safety and health diligence sends a strong message to all employers that worker protection is a sound business decision.

These are just a few of the highlights of a very busy and productive month — many more exciting events and activities are featured on the pages of this newsletter. I encourage you to read about the great things that are taking place in our department and around the state.

On a sad closing note, I would like to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Frances Skuba, a part-time worker in the Office of Human Resources in Detroit, who passed away on July 2. Please see the article about Frances on page 13.

Sincerely,

Keith W. Cooley

To learn more about prevailing wage, watch "The Job Show" which is produced by DLEG's Office of Media Technology. Check your local cable listings to find out when and on what channel the show is aired.



Nirva Civilus, DLEG's Office of Media Technology, hosts "The Job Show" and reviews the questions that she'll be asking DLEG Director Keith Cooley and CEO Pat Devlin, Michigan State Building Trades Council, during the taping.

MICHIGAN LEGWORK

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PLEASE NOTE:

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or fax them to:

(517) 241-1580.



Stay Connected

DLEG Intranet Offers Information, News, Fun

Where can you go to get the latest updates on state government, learn about fun activities, take a quick survey, and view cute baby pictures, all in one place? The DLEG intranet, of course.

The DLEG intranet Web site was launched in October 2004, and it has grown into an invaluable resource for employees. Yet many employees still aren't taking full advantage of this useful tool, according to the DLEG Media Web team.

The site is updated almost every day, and sometimes several times a day, so there's always something new for employees. However, for employees to see and use all the intranet has to offer, they need to make sure they're logged in when they go to the site.

Never registered, or having trouble? Help is available by clicking on the "Help" tab or sending an email to ohrinfo@michigan.gov.

The DLEG external site <http://www.michigan.gov/dleg> is our Web site to share information with Michigan citizens and our customers, but think of this intranet site as yours to use and enjoy. Here is an overview of some of the tabs you'll find:

Home Page — the home page is loaded with information. Did you or a family member just have a baby? Do you have a loved one serving in the military? This is the place to post candid photos and family updates. You'll also find:

- The latest DLEG news and updates, including press releases and newsletters;
- Messages from Gov. Granholm and Director Cooley;
- News on upcoming events and employee activities;
- Helpful links;
- DLEG polls;

- Suggestion box;
- And more. Make sure you scroll down so you don't miss anything!

Director's Office — Meet the staff of the DLEG executive office, send "A Note to the Director," and nominate a peer for "A Special Delivery from the Director."

Inside DLEG — This section contains forms and information from the Financial & Administrative Services Team (FAST), Media, and Office of Human Resources.

Employee Directory — Here you will find an Information Directory to help route phone calls to the correct agency, an Employee Directory to contact your peers in state government, and DLEG agency contact information.

Team Rooms — Another great feature of the intranet is the ability to create "team rooms." These are secure areas where project teams from various departments can collectively and privately share documents and collaborate via discussion boards on specific projects.

For information on how to use the site or a team room, go to the Help page and click on "Quick Guide to Intranet." For login problems, contact ohrinfo@michigan.gov. For technical issues contact DITService@michigan.gov.

If you have any ideas on what you would like to see on the intranet (e.g., suggested links, publications, survey question ideas), send a message to the Director using the suggestion box. After all, it's your intranet. We welcome your input!



Useful information is just a click away

Many employees are not familiar with the handy Information Directory, available by clicking on the home page of the intranet right under the Internal Applications section.

The directory provides a search engine for general information about business operations and agencies housed within DLEG and other state departments. It does not provide specific information, but it's a good starting point for employees who have questions about issues within DLEG or state government and aren't sure where to go.

Employees are encouraged to submit search topic suggestions or report errors to DLEG's Lansing receptionists, Stephanie Imgrund and Pauline DeRose, who maintain the directory. Topics can be sent via email to semigru@michigan.gov or pmderos@michigan.gov.

Commission on Disability Concerns Hosts Eighth Annual Youth Forum



One of the students proudly holds up her certificate.

Thirty-one high school students with disabilities from across the state came to Lansing and East Lansing June 17-21 for the 2007 Michigan Youth Leadership Forum. This was the eighth year the week-long forum has been sponsored by DLEG's Commission on Disability Concerns (MCDC).

MCDC staff and numerous other departmental employees spent many hours planning and implementing the program, which helps young people with a wide range of disability characteristics develop their leadership potential. Many of the previous years' participants have become leaders in their communities and at the state and national levels.

The forum is based on mentor relationships and developing leadership by example. The week's activities include a day at the State Capitol debating a selected bill with several members of the Legislature, learning about disability rights laws and innovations in technology, and participating in mock employment interviews.

Chair and MCDC Commission Chairperson Dan Vivian and MCDC Executive Director Duncan Wyeth. Sherry Gordon of the Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) was a mentor. Entertainment was provided by the Yellow Submarines (Beatles, Elvis Presley and Elton John impersonators).

The student participants, representing a wide range of disability characteristics and ethnic affiliations, were selected through a competitive application process and attended at no cost to their families.

Feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive. Here are a few examples of comments given by students:

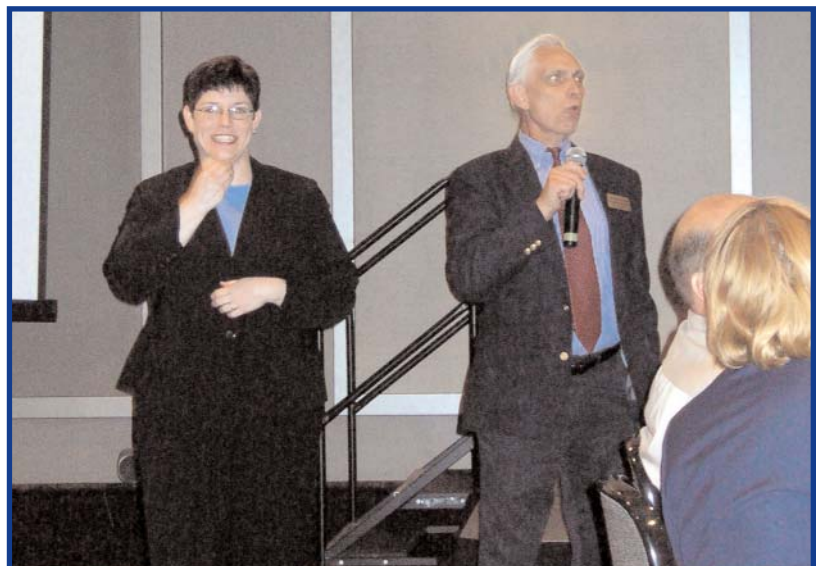
"This week is something I'll never forget and I know a lot of you delegates won't either. I learned so much and it really helped me be more confident."

"The entire staff were great and FUN! I have learned so much more about disabilities in the last five days then I have my entire lifetime."

"I want you to know that this week is something that I will never forget and it has changed my life . . ."

"I wish I was still at MYLF!"

MCDC staff members who worked on this year's event include Bill Milzarski and Cheryl Mattson, with welcoming remarks provided by Youth Leadership Forum



Duncan Wyeth speaks at the forum, as Janet Jurus, state interpreter, with the Division on Deaf & Hard of hearing, provides interpretation.

The House the Governors Built

DLEG, MSHDA Play Integral Roles in Making a Family's Dream Come True

Faron and Heather Taylor of Traverse City soon will be able to make a claim few homeowners can make: their new home was built by the nation's governors.

During the 99th annual National Governors Association Conference in Traverse City, about a dozen governors, with the help of their spouses and children, picked up hammers and nails to work on the construction of a new home for the Taylors. The parking lot of the Grand Traverse Resort was the construction site; after the home was completed, it was moved to the lot outside of Traverse City where the Taylors will live.

Habitat for Humanity—Grand Traverse Region conducted the build, made possible in part with a \$50,000 grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). Since 1992, MSHDA has awarded approximately \$30 million in grants to Habitat for Humanity—Michigan, leveraging an additional \$300 million which financed the construction of 3,000 single family homes housing 12,500 individuals.

"Habitat for Humanity is about offering a hand-up, not a handout," said Gov. Jennifer Granholm. "Thanks to this wonderful public-private partnership, a family who otherwise might not have been able to is achieving the American Dream."

Onsite power for the build was provided by Northwestern Michigan College's Energy Center. Established and funded in part by DLEG's Energy Office and the Public Service Commission, the Energy Center provides training and equipment for the regional workforce in renewable resource and energy efficiency technology.

The Energy Center provided its expertise and assistance to the build in another very important way: United Solar Ovonic of Auburn Hills offered to donate energy efficient solar panels for the home, but Habitat had never used the panels and had no experience installing them. Fortunately, the Energy Center was able to step in and provide the expertise needed to install the panels. As a result, the home is Habitat's first in the world to incorporate this energy-saving technology, which is estimated to cut electricity costs by about 45 percent.

Center instructor Mike Schmerl, a NABCAP (North America Board of Certified Energy Practitioners) certified installer, is also serving as the volunteer electrician for the Habitat home.

"DLEG deserves a lot of credit for this chain of events," Energy Center Director Bill Queen said. "None of this would have happened without DLEG granting us designation as an Energy Center."

Once the Taylors' house is situated on its permanent site, interior work will begin, with a tentative move-in date of December 1. Heather Taylor, a student, and Faron Taylor, a cook at a local restaurant, currently live in a trailer with their young children. They say they are thrilled and excited to move into their new home.

"We're so grateful to Habitat and everyone who worked on our house," Heather said. "Thanks to their generosity, we'll have a home of our own and a place for our kids to play."



Homeowners Heather and Faron Taylor (front) stand in the doorway of their future home with some of the governors who participated in the build. In back, from left, are Gov. Brian Schweitzer (Montana), Gov. Dave Freudenthal (Wyoming), and Gov. Joe Manchin III (W. Virginia). In the center are Gov. Kathleen Blanco of Louisiana and Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Continued on Page 6



Helping dreams come true: this group of volunteers, consisting of governors and their families as well as sponsors, holds the solar paneling that will help reduce electricity costs for the new house.

The House the Governors Built (Continued)

Habitat for Humanity of Michigan was established in 1993 and currently provides support to the 79 Michigan affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International. Michigan affiliates are building homes at the rate of 250 houses annually, making Michigan one of the most successful Habitat states in the country.



Gov. Granholm supervises her kids and their friends, who helped put on the siding.



MSHDA Executive Director Michael DeVos talks with Mike Schmerl, a Northwestern Michigan College instructor, in the mobile classroom of NMC's Michigan Energy Demonstration Center. The Center is one of eight projects in the state that are funded with grants from DLEG's Energy Office.



Michael DeVos, Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco and Gov. Granholm discuss the build.



The governors' kids work on birdhouses during the build, which will be given to Habitat families in the Traverse City area.

MCB Family Member Throws First Pitch at June 21 Lansing Lugnuts Game

At the Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) 11th annual outing at Oldsmobile Park in Lansing, 29 staff and many friends and family members joined the fun as the Lugnuts played the Fort Wayne Wizards. Janeile Cannon, wife of MCB director Patrick Cannon, threw out the first pitch as the crowd cheered. The weather was perfect, and the Lugnuts won 9-1.



Janeile Cannon, wife of MCB Director Patrick Cannon, takes a step forward just before releasing the ball as she throws out the first pitch. Their son, Buddy Ottensman, stands behind her cane.



Michigan Commission for the Blind staff with friends and family at Oldsmobile Park June 21.

Race For the Cure!

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) employees were among the 25,000 people who participated in the Race for the Cure on Saturday, June 16 on Woodward Avenue in Detroit. Sponsored by the Karmanos Cancer Institute, the race included competitive 5K runs for men and women, a five-mile walk and a one-mile walk. "Zee's Team" from the MRS Oakland County District honored the memory of Charlelene Winston. "Zee," as she was fondly known, was Oakland County's administrative support lead person who passed away last fall after a five-year battle with breast cancer.



Walking in memory of Zee were: (front left to right) Annette Jones (MRS Oak Park), Marguerite Watson (MRS Oak Park), Quincy Coleman, Venita King (MRS Oak Park), Elissa Shires (MRS Oak Park), Adriza Caesar (MRS Oak Park), and Terissa Daly (MRS Waterford)

(Back left to right) Adrima Caesar, Jennifer Lanier (MRS Waterford), Michael Johnson (MRS Oak Park), and Theresa Thorne (MRS Oak Park)

Not pictured: Hilary Henry (MRS Oak Park)

200 DLEG Employees Cheer Tigers to Extra Innings Win

By Valerie Congdon, UI analyst, UIA Tax System Support



Valerie Congdon, a UI analyst with UIA Tax Office and organizer of the outing, and her husband Marc.

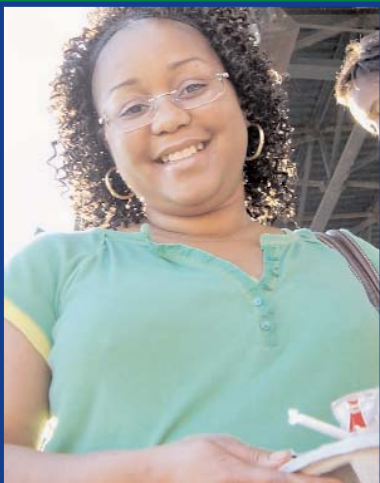
It was a beautiful night for baseball, and 200 DLEG employees, friends and family members enjoyed a fabulous evening at Comerica Park on July 21. The group enjoyed not only a nail-biting Detroit Tiger's victory, but a spontaneous multiple-beach ball cascade and an awesome fireworks display!

Current and former DLEG employees from Saginaw, Oscoda, Lansing, Grand Rapids and Detroit enjoyed the 13th Annual Negro League's Tribute game, pitting the Tigers against the Kansas City Royals. Both teams played in replica uniforms from the Negro League era. In pre-game ceremonies, several former Negro League ball players were introduced to the sell-out crowd.

Justin Verlander, the first Tiger in 23 years to pitch a no-hitter, was the team's starting pitcher. In the bottom of the first inning, Tiger leadoff hitter Ryan Raburn, shot a homerun over the center field fence, putting the Tigers on the scoreboard. Teammate Craig Monroe later contributed a three-run homer. The Royals, however, sent the game into extra innings with two runs in the top

of the 9th. But in the bottom of the 10th, Tiger bats proved to be too much for the Royals, when Sean Casey singled and scored on Brandon Inge's walk-off home run, giving the Tigers a 10-8 victory.

The Tiger's win, a short singing competition, fireworks and a dazzling colored water display from the fountain under the scoreboard, contributed to a great evening for all!



Ja'Quita Murphy, a general office clerk with Team Support in the UIA Tax Office, heads to her seat with snacks for the game—probably peanuts & Cracker Jacks.



Luereather Alexander, a UI examiner at the Saginaw Remote Initial Claims Center, with her two children — Justina, 12, and Carri'e, 12.



Director Cooley smiles for a quick photo while cheering on the Tigers.



This group from DLEG's Michigan Rehabilitation Services program almost had enough people to form their own team. In the bottom row (l-r) are Gary and Mary Kittle (MRS); Ken and Cathy Robinson (MRS); Dolly Bongiovanni (Mary's aunt); and Angie McKnight (Mary's mom). In the top row are (l-r): Helen Reinink and her son Barry (MRS).

Kalamazoo MCB Office Holds Flag Pole Raising Ceremony

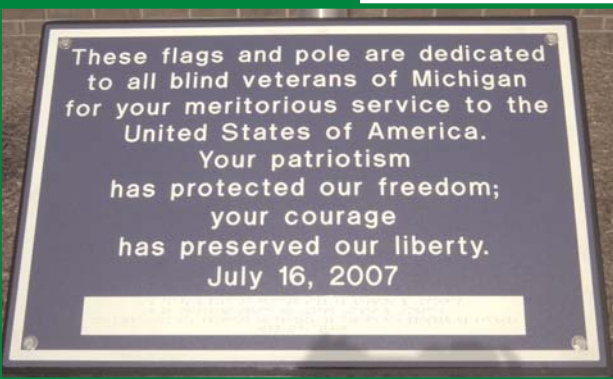
By Christine Boone, Director, Michigan Commission for the Blind Training Center



Christine Boone, MCBTC Director, listens while Congressman Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph) gives remarks.

On Monday, July 16, 2007, more than 60 people gathered on the lawn of the Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) training center in Kalamazoo. Students and staff of the center were joined by former students, family members, elected officials and business leaders; to participate in a ceremony dedicating the center's newly erected flag pole, and its US and Michigan flags, to Michigan's blind veterans. The day was perfect, with just enough sunshine to brighten the scene, and a cool breeze.

In her opening remarks, MCB Training Center Director Christine Boone said that she and her staff had not planned to purchase a new flag pole, particularly in light of Michigan's current financial challenges. Mother Nature, it seemed, had other ideas. A late spring storm toppled the old flag pole, threading the flags that had adorned it. After this, there was no choice but to replace the pole.



Flagpole Dedication Plaque

The new flag pole was bought, and the training center's facility maintenance staff set it in the ground. The bare ground surrounding the newly erected pole and the center's sign was vastly improved by the generosity of area businesses and, once again, the hard work of Dan Grover and Randy Dykstra, MCB Training Center maintenance staff. Forget Me Not Landscaping Artists provided numerous peren-

nial plantings, which nicely filled the entire area with greenery and blooms. Handley's Tree Service completed the look with several yards of mulch.

United States Congressman Fred Upton has long been a friend of the Commission for the Blind and the Training Center. Congressman Upton brought with him a flag which had flown over the Capitol in Washington D.C. He presented this flag, neatly folded in proper military fashion, to Scott Randolph, president of the Blind Veterans Association Michigan Region. Congressman Upton promised to provide a new flag to our center each

year, in order that we should always have a bright and proper flag to fly in honor of our Nation's blind veterans. Next approaching the podium was the Honorable Robert Jones, member of the Michigan House of Representatives and former Mayor of Kalamazoo. Representative Jones spoke of the outstanding and selfless contribution that all veterans have made in preserving our freedom as a nation. He said that he would remember these brave men and women each time he drives by the training center and sees the flag waving. The MCB Training Center is truly appreciative of Representative Jones' support for this training center and its work.

Scott Randolph, President of the Blind Veterans Association, Michigan Region, expressed his thanks, and that of the entire organization, for the dedication of the flags to their service.

"It was an honor to fight for the freedoms we enjoy in the United States today," Scott said. "I believe that nearly every blind veteran, when asked if they would serve again had they known that service would lead to blindness, would answer in the affirmative."

A United States Marine Corps color guard raised America's red, white and blue to the top of the flag pole, followed by the Michigan state flag. The stiff breeze promptly caught the flags and set them waving, allowing blind and sighted alike to enjoy the raising of the colors.

The ceremony closed with training center student Ron DeMitchel stepping to the front of the assembly and sending the clear notes of taps from his trumpet into the morning air.

All that remained to make the celebration complete was the reading of the text on the plaque which dedicates these flags and pole to blind veterans in Michigan.



U.S. Marine Color Guard

Passionate Advocate Shares Her Thoughts on What Makes Cities Succeed

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) recently hosted a nationally renowned speaker on urban revitalization to talk about the future of central cities in America.

Carol Coletta, president and CEO of CEOs for Cities and host and producer of the nationally syndicated public radio show Smart City (www.smartcityradio.com), spoke to a group of legislators, government officials, and nonprofit and urban leaders about the success formula for cities and creative communities.

In today's world, where the global economy is reinventing the rules, cities face new challenges. The factors that make cities successful today are changing, and cities need to develop new and creative strategies to improve and prosper.

"Cities are the economic engines of the nation," Coletta said. "The question now is what our cities must do to keep America competitive and innovative in a global economy."

According to Coletta, the most important asset a city can have is smart people. Today, it's all about attracting and retaining desirable talent, especially the mobile, college-educated, highly sought after 25- to 34-year-olds, Coletta said. Without them, cities won't thrive.

A study developed by CEOs for Cities showed that young, educated people in the 25–34 age range are more inclined than previous generations to locate to central cities.

Coletta noted that 64 percent of young people today first choose the city where they want to live, then look for a job. Among the attributes that young people look for in a city, four of the highest are:

- Clean and attractive
- Opportunity to have a quality lifestyle
- Plenty of parks and green space
- Affordable housing

"This creates a market opportunity for cities that hasn't been seen in 50 years," said Coletta. "Urban leaders need to look at what's going right and what's going wrong in their cities and uncover their best opportunities to improve."

To be successful today, cities have to develop their own unique formula that addresses the four dimensions of urban success: talent, innovation, connections and distinctiveness, Coletta said.

Coletta said the time to make the necessary changes to attract and retain this important demographic to cities is NOW.

"Those cities that aren't attracting smart people will have an ever-increasingly difficult time breaking the cycle," she said. "Cities cannot afford to be complacent."

MSHDA Director of Urban Revitalization, James Butler, said Carol's words resonated with the audience members.

"We're so pleased to have a speaker of Carol's caliber come to share her wisdom, and I know that everyone who attended gained some valuable insight into how to improve Michigan's cities."

MSHDA's Urban Revitalization division was created to address the issues central to the transformation of Michigan's economy. The division assures the ability to provide sufficient support to two of Governor Jennifer Granholm's priority initiatives, Cool Cities and Cities of Promise.

CEOs for Cities is a Chicago-based nonprofit network of mayors, corporate CEOs, university presidents, foundation officials and business and civic leaders from the nation's leading cities. The organization was founded to provide its members with special insight into the challenges that matter to the success of cities and the new partnerships and thinking required to find innovative responses.

For more information on urban revitalization and Carol Coletta, visit www.ceosforcities.org.



National cities expert Carol Coletta speaks about the importance of developing new and creative strategies for revitalizing America's cities.



Carol Coletta stands with MSHDA Director of Urban Revitalization James Butler (left), MSHDA Community Action Team Director Joe Borgstrom.

Professional Activities

Valerie Congdon Wins Scholarship to Attend WSU

By Norm Isotalo, Communications Specialist, DLEG



Valerie Congdon may be putting away more books in the future, once she earns her master's degree in Library & Information Science.

Valerie Congdon has set a very busy academic and work schedule for herself for the next three years, and to help her get it done, she was recently awarded a full-tuition scholarship from Wayne State University (WSU).

Val, who works in the Tax Office at the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA), learned in May she had won a scholarship to attend WSU's library and information science graduate program starting this fall.

She will be attending night school, taking two classes a semester and expects to earn her master's degree in three years. However, she has no plans on leaving state service once she graduates, at least not right away.

"I expect to use the degree to find a post-retirement job," Val said. "There is a demand for those with library and information service degrees, and there are openings in government, education and private industry."

As one might expect, Val loves books and reading, and she is already involved with libraries. She currently serves as a trustee for the Waterford Township Public Library and volunteers with the Oakland County Public Library's Trustee Association.

To Our Troops—With Love!

Marianne Holst, UIE Manager, Grand Rapids RICC

The Recognition Committee at the Unemployment Insurance Agency's (UIA) Remote Initial Claims Center (RICC) in Grand Rapids recently sponsored a drive to support the troops not only during Memorial Day but throughout the year.

As a small token of appreciation to service men and women who place their lives on the line for all of us, staff collected a wide range of items for troops, such as stuffed animals, snacks, medical supplies, personal hygiene items, letters, photographs and more. Additionally, staff based at the Grand Rapids Problem Resolution Office (PRO) made 53 blankets and five pillows that sport the University of Michigan and Michigan State University colors and logos.

RICC & PRO team members were solicited for the names of family or friends stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan that they would like the Committee to adopt. Boxes were placed in each team pod for staff to use in collecting their donated items. Sixteen boxes of collected items were then divided and sent to the four selected military units. Separately, UIE Denise Harris is sending a shipment of fleece blankets to her Army Reserve Unit, which has members overseas.

The team also decorated Recognition Boards at the PRO and RICC to recognize and thank staff and family members for their current and past military service.

Members of the Grand Rapids Recognition Committee are UIEs Hector Arroyo; Sara Carter; Denise Harris; Tammie Jahr; Deb Osmolinski and manager Mary Bower. While the committee organized the project, Bower said, "all the teams in the RICC and PRO were contributors and supporters of the idea."

She pointed out that staff has asked the committee to continue the project and another collection drive will be held in November in honor of Veterans Day.



Debra Osmolinski, a member of the Grand Rapids Recognition Committee and a UI examiner at the PRO, helped in sewing the blankets and pillows that were shipped to troops in Iraq.

Professional Activities

MCTI Cabinetmaking/Millwork Program Receives National Award Nomination

By Patty Miller-Kramer

The Cabinetmaking/Millwork program at the Michigan Career and Technical Institute (MCTI) was nominated for the prestigious 2007 WMIA Educator of the Year Award. This award, given by the Woodworking Machinery Industry Association (WMIA), acknowledges and honors the efforts of the education community. Dave Ortmyer, WMIA marketing committee member and Italpresse USA, Inc., chief operating officer, said, "Training and keeping quality employees equipped to run today's high tech equipment essential to profitability and efficiency is probably the biggest challenge the woodworking industry faces today. WMIA addresses this issue on several fronts through our Educational Forum, Educational Foundation and as a strong supporter of WoodLINKS USA. The Educator of the Year Award is our vehicle for acknowledging and honoring the efforts of the education community."

The WMIA Educator Award qualifications include:

- 1 Must be an institution/company involved in a program of instruction for woodworkers.
- 2 The program must involve training on high-technology woodworking machinery.
- 3 The program must be applicable to the current or future marketplace
- 4 The program must extend beyond individual company or current customer personnel.

MCTI's program was previously nominated in 2004. WMIA recognized the West Ottawa High



Governor Granholm recently paid a visit to MCTI and took a tour of the facility.

School's innovative and comprehensive wood-working curriculum as last year's WMIA Educator of the Year Award winner. Winners are announced this summer, and will be invited to attend the award presentation dinner in South Carolina in October.

MCTI's Cabinetmaking/Millwork program graduates an average of 20 students per year and has maintained an average placement rate of 90% over the past five years. Graduates of the program are heavily recruited from woodworking firms large and small around the state and upper Midwest.

OFIS Promotes Investor Education Program

The Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) has begun a new campaign to promote the Investor Ed @ Your Library series in the Detroit area.

OFIS has contracted with WWJ-Newsradio in Detroit to develop the campaign, which will include radio ads, an Investor Ed @ Your Library Web site, and on-air mentions of the program. The campaign will run through the rest of the year.

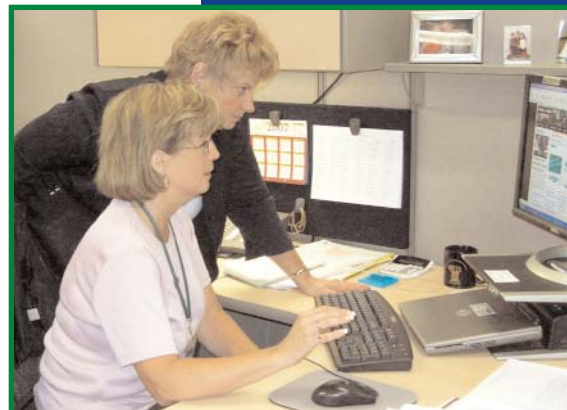
"We're especially excited about the Web site, because it enables consumers to sign up for a seminar online," Peg Beckwith, Investor Ed coordinator. "This new campaign is going to be a great way to let people know about these informative programs."

The campaign is funded entirely by a grant from the Investor Protection Trust to the Securities section of OFIS. Several other Investor Education

radio series, "The Investment Minute," that is being broadcast over AM and FM radio stations across Michigan.

The Investor Education @your Library program is designed to help individuals make informed investment decisions, whether in their company-sponsored retirement accounts or in their private savings accounts.

Investor Education @your Library involves 90 minute seminars on investing that will be taught by certified financial investment advisers. There also are tips on fraud prevention from state securities regulators. The seminars are followed by optional, one-on-one counseling sessions for participants.



Linda Cena and Peg Beckwith of OFIS' securities section check out the new Investor Ed Web site.

Professional Activities

Governor Granholm Issues Tribute for ADA's 17th Anniversary



Governor Jennifer Granholm has issued a Certificate of Tribute in celebration of the 17th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was enacted on July 26, 1990. In her tribute, Governor Granholm said that the ADA "signaled a revolution in our nation's public policies toward people with disabilities." She also noted that while "in Michigan we have worked hard to achieve the ADA's core goals of equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency,

we still have a great deal to accomplish." She quoted President Franklin Roosevelt, who said, "No Country, however rich, can afford the waste of its human resources." The tribute also makes reference to the National Coalition for Disability Rights Road to Freedom Bus Tour, which will be in Michigan August 12-14 for events in Lansing, Flint, and Marquette. Details of these events are on the Michigan Commission for the Blind Events Calendar. (The home page of the MCB website is at www.michigan.gov/mcb.)

Saginaw is On the Move!

By Crystal Galloway, UIE Saginaw RICC

The Unemployment Insurance Agency's (UIA) Saginaw Remote Initial Claims Center (RICC) is getting a new home, and if construction proceeds on time, their new building should be ready by the end of August.

It has been a long awaited move as the RICC has had to house its staff in two separate buildings due to a lack of space. But like any new construction, there are potentials for delays, and this has created an opportunity for a contest.

One of the RICC's work teams is holding a contest for staff to guess the date that the first and last teams will move into the new RICC location. "We know that the move from one building to another will probably be inconvenient and even stressful at times," Manager Lyndon Shinn said. "The contest is a way to inject a little fun into the process."

Proceeds from the contest will be used to purchase new appliances for the Center's break rooms.



The Grandpa's Group Team is holding a contest to guess when the RICC will start and complete its move to the Center's new home.

Team members are: (front, l-r): Gwen Davis-Brazil and Billie Gudritz; (middle): Nannette Metiva, Kim Mier, Tracy Pryor, Pat Jewett (Lead worker); (back): Lyndon Shinn (Mgr), Connie Broderson, Linda Ludgin.



Construction work is proceeding on the new home for the Saginaw RICC. The building is located in downtown Saginaw, about a mile from the RICC's current location.

UIA sponsors successful blood drive at Cadillac Place

On June 7, the Unemployment Insurance Agency at Cadillac Place in Detroit hosted another successful blood drive! The appointment goal was 30, but 35 pre-made appointments and 19 more were walk-ins.

Altogether 39 pints of blood were collected, which helped 107 area patients.

All those who attempted to donate blood had their names entered into a drawing for a gas barbecue grill, and everyone who donated or who attempted to donate received an oven mitt from the Red Cross.

Thanks to your caring and commitment, lives are being saved daily.

By Valerie Congdon, UI analyst, UIA Tax Office

People on the Move

Fausch Retires From Detroit RICC

She said her plan for retirement is a blank page, and Helen Fausch is starting to fill in the blanks. Helen retired from the Detroit RICC on May 31, capping a 15-year career with the unemployment insurance (UI) program.

Helen's started her state career rather tenuously as a limited-term appointee, working as a claims examiner at the Port Huron and Madison Heights offices with the Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC). She then became a permanent intermittent employee and worked at the Sterling Heights MESC office. Eventually, Helen became a permanent employee in Sterling Heights and worked as employment service interviewer and later as a claims examiner.

In 2002, Helen moved over to the Unemployment Insurance Agency's Detroit Remote Initial Claims Center (RICC) as a UI examiner. A year later she became a team manager.

While Helen says she'll see where the wind blows as she enters retirement, we do know that she has a long list of things to do that has been building over the past 40 years. So, maybe those retirement pages aren't so blank after all.



Helen Fausch (left), manager of DeVille at the Detroit RICC, receives best wishes for her retirement from her supervisor Jeanetta Brown at a reception for Helen that was held on May 30.

MCB Changes

Karen Simmons, Lead Cook at the Michigan Commission for the Blind Training Center, is now a Certified Food Safety Manager with her name in the National Registry of Food Safety Professionals. MCB Training Center Director Christine Boone said in an e-mail to Karen, "Our Training Center will certainly be proud to list you as a certified Food Safety Manager. This kind of continuing training helps us to maintain one of our key values, life-long learning."

Patricia Angerman began employment as a Rehabilitation Counselor with the Michigan Commission for the Blind at the Saginaw Valley Rehabilitation Center (SVRC) on a full-time basis on June 19. Pat will be transitioning to a full-time Rehabilitation Counselor position in the Grand Rapids office. Previously, Pat had been a part-time teacher with MCB for the past seven months.

Human Resources Says Farewell to Frances Skuba

Staff in the Office of Human Services at Cadillac Place has lost a dear friend and co-worker with the recent death of Frances Skuba. Frances succumbed on July 2 after a brief illness and after celebrating her 87th birthday in April.

Frances began working with the then Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC) in 1978. She came to MESC as a senior worker assigned to the Commission by the Detroit Area Agency on Aging. Frances was a part-time older worker and was assigned to a number of divisions. She remained with MESC/Unemployment Insurance Agency through several reorganizations, working in the Bureau of Employment Services, Program Services Division, Special

Placement Services Unit, and Older Worker Subunit, where she assisted the Older Worker Coordinator in serving older workers seeking employment. She also worked in the Travel Section and, for the past 10 years, in the Office of Human Resources.

Frances freely shared her knowledge and experience with her HR co-workers. Until shortly before her death, she was working two days a week and, until age 86, still driving her Cadillac DeVille to work. Her hobbies were reading and helping others, and she loved wearing her Leopard prints. Frances had a heart of gold and will truly be missed.

By Yvette Leonard, Manager, Personnel Services

Cindy Ranshaw Completes Masters Degree



Cindy Ranshaw

Congratulations to Cindy Ranshaw, Investigator for Liquor Control Commission (LCC), who has recently received a Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from Walden University with studies in eGovernment and Emergency Services/Homeland Security.

Cindy graduated from Alpena Community College with an Associate in Science degree in 1980 and received a Bachelor of Science in Criminalistics from Michigan State University in 1983.

Cindy has been employed as an Investigator/Regulatory Agent with the State of

Michigan Liquor Control Commission since 1985. She lives in Alpena with her husband Rick and seven-year-old daughter Jessica. When she's not working or studying, Cindy serves as Girl Scout Service Unit Manager and Expert Level Council Trainer for several counties in the Mitten Bay Girl Scout Council area, and volunteers at her church and at her daughter's school.

Eventually, Cindy would like to go on to complete a doctorate. She says, "Knowing that my daughter knows that mom was never too to keep learning I hope will set a good example for years to come."

Smith Earns Fourth Degree

By Shamar Green, Grand Rapids RICC

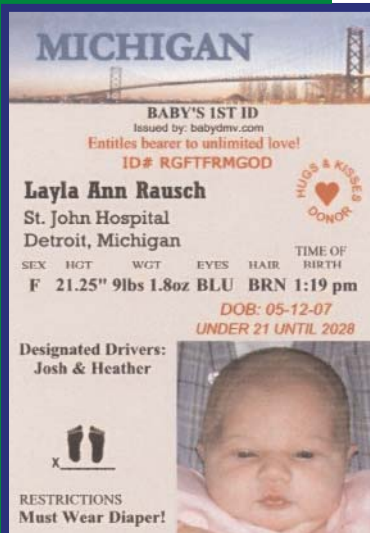


Sherry Smith

For the past 25 years, Sherry Smith has been going to college. And, she's been earning degrees. In April she received her fourth degree, giving her a total of two bachelor's and two associate's degrees.

Sherry is a supervisor at the Unemployment Insurance Agency's (UIA) Work Distribution Center in Grand Rapids. Her latest degree is a bachelor's degree in business administration (BBA) with a concentration in human resources and is from Davenport University. The degree is in addition to a BBA in management from Northwood University and associate's degrees in business management and for administrative specialist.

Sherry is not stopping at four. She's currently pursuing two master's degrees — one in business administration with a concentration in leadership and management and the other degree in management. She expects to receive both degrees next year.



Baby ID'd With State Card

Layla Ann Rausch was born on May 12, and she already has her "official" State of Michigan ID card. Layla's mom is Heather Rausch, an unemployment insurance examiner with the Unemployment Insurance Agency, based at the Detroit Remote Initial Claims Center. Layla weighed in at 9lb. 1.8 ounce. Aside from the restriction that she "must wear diapers," Layla along with her mom Heather are doing well.

CAMS Is Looking to Put a Cog in Fraud

By Clay Tierney, UIA Project Manager



Members of UIA's CAMS project team are (front, l-r) Clay Tierney, project manager; and Rabia Keo, Tech & Data Control analyst; (back row, l-r): Tom Sanfilippo, Benefit Payment Control manager; Connie Luckett, Quality Assurance manager; and Todd Kangas, Benefit Fraud Investigation manager. Brian Moeller, Integrity Initiatives manager, was unavailable for the photograph.

The Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) is developing new tools in its ongoing efforts to reduce and eliminate unemployment benefit overpayments and fraud.

The agency's newest project is called Case Audit Management System (CAMS). Through CAMS, the agency is developing a data base to track information about benefit overpayments and fraud, such as the number of cases, types of decisions, amounts overpaid, penalties, and other items. Information for the data base will be pulled from various cross match programs, fraud investigations

and integrity review findings.

With the data, UIA will be able to identify patterns or trends in benefit overpayments and fraud. The information will also be used to develop programs to detect and prevent overpayments and fraud, to train staff and to prepare informational materials for employers and unemployed workers.

The project will be phased in by adding information from several cross match programs to the CAMS data base. Next, information from fraud investigations will be added to CAMS. In the final phase, CAMS will be used to generate reports to review information for specific integrity areas of interest, such as multiple claims with the same or nearly the same addresses or multiple claims filed by telephone using the same phone numbers.

The CAMS project is headed by Clay Tierney, project manager with UIA's Benefit Services program. Managers of the agency's Quality Assurance, Benefit Payment Control Unit, Benefit Fraud Investigations and Integrity Initiatives are also on the project team.



Gwen Boyd, a regulations agent with UIA's Tax Enforcement office, received her masters degree in business administration in June.

Boyd Earns Her Master's Degree

When asked why she pursued a master's degree, Vanessa Boyd said, it was for herself. She wanted to continue her education. That's not surprising, when you consider that she was the first child in her family with 12 other siblings to obtain a college degree.

Vanessa set the standard in her family and six of her brothers and sisters followed suit by obtaining their own degrees.

In June, Vanessa, a regulations agent with

UIA's newly formed Tax Enforcement Office, received her master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix.

Vanessa completed her coursework in two years by attending evening classes while working during the day. A state employee since 1985, Vanessa had worked with the Departments of Corrections, Community Mental Health and Human Services before joining UIA in March of this year.



Terry Fobbs shares a moment with entertainer Pat Boone.

Terry Fobbs Sworn in as National Officer

Colonel (retired) Terry Fobbs rubbed shoulders with legendary entertainer Pat Boone at the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) Banquet in San Francisco on June 30 as part of the association's National Convention. Terry was re-elected and sworn in as

a National Officer for the congressionally chartered organization. ROA proposes national security legislation to Congress and provides policy recommendations to the President and senior Defense Department officials. Terry heads DLEG's Organizational Development Office, which is part of the department's Executive Office.

We Get Letters ... and E-mails!

Jan Patrick, Manager of Conservation Programs in the Energy Office reported "Here's a positive comment from the Education Committee Chair, Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association (<http://www.whea.com/>). 'We are a nonprofit, education focused organization for hospital facility managers. I've received your Energy Observer for a few years and find the information straight forward and valuable.' Permission to link to our website was requested and given so our membership had access to this quarterly bulletin. Kudos to our past and current editors, **Brandy Minikey** and **Nick Evans**.

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Michelle Visscher, a counselor at the Michigan Commission for the Blind (MCB) Grand Rapids office, received a thank you letter from a client that said, "Thank you so much for all your help and inspiration. The future looks scary, but knowing you are there makes all the difference in the world."

Three clients who attended the Michigan Commission for the Blind Training Center in Kalamazoo wrote a letter of thanks to the teachers and other staff there who helped them, including **Therese Andrews, Bonnie Betz, Mary Carter, Karen Cornell, Sandy Fortier, Dave Greenwald, Shelley Masion, Faith Meadows, Karyn Silky, Marge Spencer, Wendy VanElk, Regina Wesley, Roger Yake, Mary Zemlick**, and others, saying, "All of our teachers . . . were very helpful, friendly and WILLING to answer our MANY questions and we did have plenty of them . . . Karen, who took us shopping, to the movies, and especially the fitness room, we can never thank you enough. We felt safe being out in the world with you nearby. . . The kitchen staff fed us the best food, always friendly and helpful and shared their recipes. . . AND, the cleaning staff. . . We and our families were very impressed with how clean the center always is. Thank you everyone for a great two weeks at the center. I will recommend the center to everyone I know with a vision problem."

Sherry Gordon, acting MCB west region supervisor, received this complimentary email from a former client:

"It blows me away how some people leave a great impression in our minds. You are one of them. It has been years since I last spoke with you, but I'll never forget you or your wonderful personality."

MCB Lansing Rehabilitation Teacher **Roberta McCall** received a thank you note saying, "This comes with much appreciation to you and Jon [Armstrong, your driver] for all your kindness and help to me."

Rehabilitation Counselor **Debbie Wilson** received a letter from a consumer who now makes furniture for a living, who said, "Thank you for all your help and support for getting this business up and going."

Shawn Potter, rehabilitation counselor at the MRS Lansing District Office, received the following heartfelt letter from a very appreciative mother of a MRS client.

"Dear Mr. Potter, I extend my sincere thanks to you and the MRS for providing my son with an employment. It had always been nearly impossible for him to procure a job and hold on to that because of his disability. His current employment with Peckham seems to be the right job which utilizes the positive attributes of his particular disability, and there is a strong possibility that he will do very well in this job and remain a productive member of the society. Thanks again for your help."

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Roseanne Renauer, manager of the MRS Lansing District Office, received the following positive feedback from a client who successfully obtained employment at a hospital in mid-Michigan.

"If it weren't for the help with hearing aids and stethoscope, I could not have kept working with my hearing loss. I am in a perfect situation for this time in my career. I appreciate the help, at the time I was unemployed and looking for work and very apprehensive about being able to find something with my decrease in hearing. Thank you.!"

Bob Smith, site manager of the MRS Lansing District Office, received this heartwarming letter from a former client.

"Dear Bob, I am writing you this letter to share about how my job is coming and to let you know how I am doing. My job is absolutely wonderful. It is like the job was created specifically for me. You were the primary one to get me from A to Z and I am grateful to have had you in my life. Bob, I am deeply grateful for what you did to help me and the organization of vocational rehab. I only wish there was a way I could express it more. I imagine you would say something like 'Just keep on doing what you are doing . . . I could go on and on, but you have a life and a busy one at that. I just wanted you to know all your grief in helping me has paid off.'"

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Michigan Commission for the Blind counselor Dee Robertson of the DeafBlind Unit received a note from one of her clients, who said, "Thank you so much for your dogged support. I really feel that you have been a great advocate and support. It seems that things have come together for me and now I can continue on my journey. It is exciting and you are helping me make it happen. Thank you so very much."

